

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-15 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

In the first paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the specification has been objected to because of alleged informality.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that it is not clear what the "magnet signal" refers to. The "Background of the Invention" part of the specification has been amended to contain reference to the origin of the "magnet signal".

In the third paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that it is not clear what the intelligent circuit comprises and how it operates such that the analysis with regard to the fulfillment

of the predetermined criterion and the interpretation based thereon can be carried out.

New Fig. 5 has been added and the specification has been amended correspondingly. The intelligent circuit has been described in detail in the added description in connection with Fig. 5.

In the first paragraph on page 3 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-15 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that it is not clear in claim 1, at lines 3-4, what the output signal and successive signal pulses represent or are related to. The Examiner has also stated that it is not clear in claim 1, at lines 11-12, what is the significance of interpreting the modulated supply voltage as an external communication signal and what is done with the communication signal as a result of such interpretation.

Claim 1 has been amended to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 4, line 25 to page 5, line 2, page 5, lines 17-21 and page 6, line 25 to page 7, line 2 of the specification.

It is described on page 4, line 25 to page 5, line 2, to switch the sensor to a test mode. It is further described on page 5, lines 17-21, to switch the sensor to a communication mode. Accordingly, it is disclosed in the specification to switch the sensor to a mode different from the detection mode.

Furthermore, it is described on page 6, line 25 to page 7, line 2, that, in communication mode, the output signal of the sensor is a communication signal. This is further exemplified on page 12, line 8 to page 13, line 6 of the specification.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic and/or clarificatory reasons. The changes are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claims for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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For Applicant

YHC:cgm

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Marked-Up Version of the Amended Paragraphs in the  
Specification and Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims:

The paragraph starting on page 1, line 20 and ending on  
page 2, line 2 now reads as:

The prior art discloses various rotational speed sensors which are intended to be able to detect the revolutions of a wheel. By way of example, a sensor with a gearwheel is known, in which the teeth and gaps of the gearwheel are converted into logic H=HIGH and L=LOW states, respectively. The teeth and the gaps of the gearwheel are formed as alternating magnetic north and south poles of a ring magnet. When the gearwheel is rotated, a magnetic sensor, e.g. a Hall sensor, senses the alternating sequence of north and south poles. This alternating sequence can be then converted into logic H=HIGH and L=LOW states, respectively, of a magnet signal. In the case of a prior art two-wire current interface, these states are output such that each state is assigned a specific current consumption. As a result, the two supply lines can simultaneously be used as signal output lines as well.

The paragraph starting on page 8, line 5 and ending on  
page 8, line 8 now reads as:

Figs. 3A and 3B are signal diagrams illustrating, with respect to time, signal magnitudes of the circuit according to Fig. 1, wherein Fig. 3A represents the known measurement mode and Fig. 3B illustrates the changeover to the communication mode; [and]

The paragraph starting on page 8, line 10 and ending on page 8, line 12 now reads as:

Figs. 4A, 4B, and 4C are signal diagrams illustrating the transmitted signal pulses in an embodiment of the method according to the invention[.]; and

Claim 1(amended). A method of communicating with a built-in sensor, the sensor receiving a supply voltage externally via a voltage supply line and outputting an output signal with successive signal pulses, the method which comprises the steps of:

placing [a] the sensor into a detection mode;

externally modulating [a] the supply voltage on [a] the voltage supply line connected to the sensor;

analyzing the modulated supply voltage received in the sensor with regard to a fulfillment of a predetermined criterion stored in the sensor; [and]

interpreting the received modulated supply voltage as an external communication signal if the criterion is fulfilled;

switching the sensor to a mode different from the detection mode if the criterion is fulfilled; and

in the different mode, outputting an output signal related to the different mode.